

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ D. _____

Date: February 15, 2006

Topic: First Review of a Recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure to Grant Continuing Program Approval to the University of Mary Washington and Sweet Briar College

Presenter: Dr. Thomas A. Elliott, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Teacher Education, Licensure and Professional Practice

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Origin:

_____ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

X Board review required by
_____ State or federal law or regulation
X Board of Education regulation
_____ Other: _____

X Action requested at this meeting: Waive first review and approve request for accreditation.

_____ Action requested at future meeting: _____ (date)

Previous Review/Action:

X No previous board review/action

_____ Previous review/action
date _____
action _____

Background Information:

The Regulations Governing Approved Programs for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education require colleges and universities that offer programs for the preparation of professional educators to obtain continuing program approval from the Board of Education. In Virginia, the review and approval of programs is viewed as the shared responsibility of institutions of higher education, school divisions, and the Department of Education. Final approval rests with the Board of Education.

The Regulations Governing Approved Programs for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education define the standards that must be met and the review procedures that must be followed to obtain and maintain board approval. The regulations currently provide three options for the review of teacher education programs: 1) the state review process for which the college or university must meet the standards established by Board of Education

regulations; 2) the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) process for which the college or university must meet the NCATE standards and the board's teaching area requirements; 3) the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) process for which the college or university must produce an *Inquiry Brief* and supporting evidence that its program prepares competent, caring, qualified professional educators. In all three, the institution hosts an on-site visit by a team of trained reviewers who develop a report of findings in which a recommendation is made with regard to the status of the program as approval for continued full accreditation, approval with stipulations, or program denial.

Summary of Major Elements of the State Review Process:

During spring 2005, seven Virginia colleges and universities were scheduled for on-site program reviews. Of the seven, one was reviewed using the NCATE process and six were reviewed under the Board of Education process. *The Regulations Governing Approved Programs for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education* set forth 20 standards in the following four categories:

- I. Program Design;
- II. Faculty;
- III. Candidates; and
- IV. Program Operation/Accountability.

The review team makes a recommendation of met or not met for each of the 20 standards. In addition, the team makes a recommendation of approved, approved with stipulations, or denied for the teacher preparation program as a whole; lastly, one of these three recommendations is made for each endorsement program offered by the institution. At its November 21, 2005, meeting the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) recommended that the Board of Education grant full approval to teacher preparation programs at the University of Mary Washington (UMW) and Sweet Briar College. Below are summaries of the review team reports for both institutions.

University of Mary Washington

The review of the University of Mary Washington undergraduate and graduate programs for teacher preparation was conducted March 13-16, 2005, in accordance with the standards and procedures outlined in the *Regulations Governing Approved Programs for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education*. This was the first review conducted under these regulations. Dr. Randy Cromwell served as chair of the on-site review team.

The team recommendation for the University of Mary Washington's teacher preparation program is fully approved. As defined in the approved program regulations, a recommendation of approved is made when the professional education program and the endorsement areas are considered satisfactory. The review team cited all 20 standards as being met. The following weakness was cited under Standard 10 which relates to the admission of candidates. Although UMW has made extensive efforts to recruit qualified teachers, there was no evidence of a measurable plan for recruiting, admitting, or retaining candidates of diverse backgrounds in the graduate programs.

**2003-2004 Praxis I: Reading, Writing, Mathematics Assessments
for Program Completers**

University of Mary Washington	PPST READING	CBT READING	COMPUTER- IZEE PPST READING	PPST WRITING	CBT WRITING	COMPUTER- IZEE PPST WRITING	PPST MATHEMATICS	CBT MATHEMATICS	COMPUTER- IZED PPST MATHEMATICS	AGGREGATE-- BASIC SKILLS
Number Taking Assessment	58	2	4	58	2	4	57	2	5	64
Number Passing Assessment	56	2	4	58	2	4	54	2	5	64
Institutional Pass Rate	97%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	95%	100%	100%	100%

2003-2004 Praxis II Assessments for Program Completers

University of Mary Washington	Number of Students	Test Area	Number Passing	Pass Rate
	39	Elem. Content.	39	100%
	5	Eng. Lang. Lit.	5	100%
	3	Mathematics: Content	3	100%
	2	Social Studies: Content	2	100%
	2	Music: Content	2	100%
	1	Art: Content	1	100%
	3	Spanish: Content	3	100%
	1	Biology: Content	1	100%

Sweet Briar College

The review of the Sweet Briar College teacher preparation program was conducted April 17-20, 2005, in accordance with the standards and procedures outlined in the Regulations Governing Approved Programs for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education. This was the first review conducted under these regulations. Dr. Jayne Sullivan of Virginia Wesleyan College served as chair of the on-site review team.

The team recommendation for Sweet Briar College's teacher preparation program is fully approved. As defined in the approved program regulations, a recommendation of approved is made when the professional education program and the endorsement areas are considered satisfactory. All applicable standards were met.

2003-2004 Praxis I: Reading, Writing, Mathematics Assessments for Program Completers

Sweet Briar College	PPST READING	CBT READING	COMPUTER- IZEE PPST READING	PPST WRITING	CBT WRITING	COMPUTER- IZEE PPST WRITING	PPST MATHEMATICS	CBT MATHEMATICS	COMPUTER- IZED EPST MATHEMATICS	AGGREGATE-- BASIC SKILLS
Number Taking Assessment		1	4		1	4		1	4	5
Number Passing Assessment		1	4		1	4		1	4	5
Institutional Pass Rate		100%	100%		100%	100%		100%	100%	100%

2003-2004 Praxis II Assessments for Program Completers

Sweet Briar College	Number of Students	Test Area	Number Passing	Pass Rate
	2	Elementary: Content	2	100%
	1	Music Content	1	100%
	1	Eng. Lang. Lit. Comp	1	100%

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the ABTEL recommendation to grant continuing programs approval to the University of Mary Washington and Sweet Briar College.

Impact on Resources:

Expenses incurred during on site review of teacher education programs are funded by the hosting institution.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Teacher preparation programs reviewed under the state approval process are conducted on a seven year cycle. Programs that meet standards for full approval will be reviewed again on the established cycle.